

MEMO TO THE FILE:

Call with MPCA

Monday February 14, 2022

CALL NOTES:

MPCA's draft response to the Birch Lake comments

- + MPCA will not be adding Birch Lake to the 2022 303(d) List
- + MPCA will respond to the commenters who have shared data with MPCA in their Response to Comments document
- + MPCA will continue to investigate Birch Lake moving forward into the 2024 list

Splitting out Bob and Dunka Bay from the larger Birch Lake AUID

- + MPCA could look at adding embayment, that would happen in the lead up to the 2024 cycle
- + Typically when MPCA has previously subdivided a larger lake into smaller subunits, those "new" embayments will be larger lake segments (i.e., larger than smaller embayments being targeted in comments on Birch Lake).
- + According to MPCA, the Bob's Bay and Dunka Bay sizes are fairly small segments and MPCA hasn't typically resegmented bays which are this small in previous resegmentation efforts.
- + At this time, MPCA is unsure if Bob's Bay and Dunka Bay are distinct hydrologic units of the larger Birch Lake
- + If MPCA were to further investigate subdividing out these embayments, MPCA would investigate the morphometry (bathymetry of the lake)
- + MN-DNR has good technical input which would likely be helpful to MPCA to consider for any resegmentation efforts

Water quality data shared with MPCA

- + Unsure of QA/QC of the data shared
- + Unsure of the depth of samples collected – certain samples may have been collected at greater depths than others. Depth of sample collection still needs to be investigated
- + Unsure of location of samples collected
- + Water quality data was submitted outside of MPCA's data submittal portals – greater work to verify QA/QC of submitted data.
- + Timing of sample collection - multiple samples collected on the same day, which would ultimately be averaged together

MPCA needs to more clearly explain how it wants data to be shared from outside parties

- + There may be some missed connection between certain outside parties submitting data and MPCA not deeming said data worthy of consideration because it lacks clarity/detail of what MPCA ultimately wants to see from outside data submitters.
- + Within the 2024 Assessment Methodology MPCA is thinking they need to be much clearer about how to submit data to MPCA.
 - E.g., Follow these steps if you, outside party, are interested in sharing data.
 - E.g., If you want MPCA to consider your data, here is what you should do
- + MPCA expressing the need to improve language and parameters in the Assessment Methodology
- + Also, MPCA discussed the idea of meeting with stakeholders who have shared data for Birch Lake and continuing that discussion